AMENDMENT

Please amend the application without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents as follows.

In the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A method for treating ~~or preventing~~ chronic pain in a subject, comprising administering a lentiviral vector ~~system~~ comprising ~~an entity of interest (EOI)~~ a nucleotide of interest (NOI) to a dorsal root ganglion ~~cell~~ (DRG) cell in the subject, wherein expression of the NOI treats pain in the subject.

2. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the vector system is administered by injection into [[a]] the DRG cell of the subject.

3. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the vector ~~system~~ is administered to the subject at a site which is distant to the DRG cell and the vector system ~~or a part thereof~~ travels to the DRG cell by retrograde transport.

4. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 3, wherein the vector ~~system is or~~ comprises at least a part of a rabies G protein ~~or a mutant, variant, homologue or fragment thereof~~.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 3, wherein the site is a peripheral site.

6. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 3, wherein the vector ~~system~~ is administered to the subject by injection into an area of pain.

7. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein ~~the EOI~~ expression of the NOI modulates cellular excitability of ~~a target~~ the DRG cell.

8. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 7, wherein ~~the EOI~~ expression of the NOI causes hyperpolarisation of the ~~target~~ DRG cell.

9. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein ~~the EOI~~ expression of the NOI modulates expression or activity of an ion channel.

10. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, wherein ~~the EOI~~ expression of the NOI causes expression of an ion channel or part thereof.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein the ion channel is constitutively active.

12. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein[[:]]

~~(i) the EOI is an NOI;~~

~~(ii)~~ expression of the NOI is under the control of a targeted promoter; and

~~(iii)~~ the targeted promoter restricts the expression of the NOI to C fibers and/or [[A*]] Aδ fibres.

13. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein[[:]]

~~(i) the EOI is an NOI; and~~

~~(ii)~~ expression of the NOI is inducible.

14. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~EOI is delivered to~~ DRG cell is a sensory neuron cell body within [[the]] a DRG of the subject.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently amended) A method for identification or validation of ~~an EOI~~ a nucleotide sequence of interest (NOI) useful in the ~~prevention or~~ treatment of pain comprising

(i) delivering a test NOI to a cell *in vitro*;

(ii) analyzing the effect of the test NOI on pain avoidance or relief *in vitro*;

(iii) delivering ~~a test EOI~~ the test NOI to a target cell in a subject;

~~(ii)~~(iv) analyzing ~~the effect of the EOI on the target cell~~ perception and/or transmission of pain in the subject; and

~~(iii)~~(v) selecting an [[EOI]] an NOI with therapeutic potential,

thereby identifying or validating an NOI useful in the treatment of pain.

17. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 16, wherein step [[(ii)]] (iv) comprises monitoring [[EOI]]NOI-induced modulation of a transcriptome and/or proteosome of the target cell.

18. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 16, wherein the target cell is ~~derived from~~ a DRG cell.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 18, wherein the ~~target~~ DRG cell is *in situ* ~~within the DRG of a subject~~.

21-24. (Cancelled)